

Declassified Case:
 LW 39359
 Date: 06-20-2013

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 FOIA Case: LW 39359

U. S. Department of Justice

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100- HQ-124410
 Serials 51-54

Section 3



FEDERAL BUREAU

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INVESTIGATION

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AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Chicago, Illinois

14A

December 1, 1942

162
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

ATTENTION: TECHNICAL LABORATORY

RE: PEACE MOVEMENT TO ETHIOPIA, aka
Ethiopian Peace Movement
MITTI MAUD LENA GORDON, was et al
INTERNAL SECURITY - J
SEDITION

Dear Sir:

~~DEFERRED RECORDING~~

Reference is made to the laboratory report dated November 24, 1942, Bureau file number 100-124410 in the above entitled case. In this report it is set forth that the examination conducted of specimens Q-13 through Q-17 reflects that the same typewriter was used in these specimens.

The reference laboratory report concludes that the original evidence is being retained in the files of the laboratory.

Inasmuch as instant case is scheduled for trial in Chicago December 8, 1942, it will be necessary to have this evidence available. It is requested therefore that the original of specimens Q-13 through Q-17 be immediately forwarded to this office. The United States Attorney has expressed the opinion that a laboratory technician may be used as a witness in instant case.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-2-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

Yours truly

A. H. Johnson
A. H. JOHNSON
Special Agent in Charge

RWA:DMK
100-8932

*Encl. rec'd
12-2-42
8 AM*

RECORDED

100-124410-51

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FILE NO. **100-6668**

REPORT MADE AT MIAMI, FLORIDA	DATE WHEN MADE 12-3-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11-19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25-42	REPORT MADE BY WILLIAM AYERS GODFREY
TITLE PEACE MOVEMENT OF ETHIOPIA; FLORIDA CHAPTER; WILLIAM ASHLEY FERGERTSON, with aliases, William A. Fergertson, William A. Ferguson, William A. Fergeson			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - J SEDITION
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <div style="float: left; width: 20%; transform: rotate(-45deg); font-weight: bold; font-size: small;"> ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 8/22/92 BY 7-3-96 SPY-03A/PM </div> <div style="float: right; width: 80%;"> <p>WILLIAM ASHLEY FERGERTSON, leader of subject organization in State of Florida; membership card of FERGERTSON and thirteen letters from M. M. L. GORDON of Chicago to FERGERTSON at Palatka, Florida obtained; roll book of Fla. Chapter of subject organization obtained and various members interviewed. All activities of FERGERTSON in connection with subject organization directed by M. M. L. GORDON according to statement of FERGERTSON. Funds sent by FERGERTSON to M. M. L. GORDON do not exceed the sum of \$1.00 although he has been working with M. M. L. GORDON in subject organization since 1936. WILLIAM A. FERGERTSON's signed statement admits reading to a church congregation a letter received from M. M. L. GORDON in which it is stated that the black people will be free when the white man has finished committing suicide and that the battle of the Pacific should be watched and the black people should be kept together at this time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- P -</p> <p>REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent RICHARD W. AXTELL, Chicago, Illinois, dated September 16, 1942; letter from the Chicago Field Division dated October 29, 1942; letter from the Chicago Field Division dated November 23, 1942.</p> <p>DETAILS: On November 19, 1942, the writer, together with Confidential Informant T-1, visited the premises of WILLIAM A. FERGERTSON, R. F. D. #1</p> </div>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">100-124410-52</div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau (AMSD) 70 3 Chicago (1 USA, Chicago) (AMSD) ((5 Miami <div style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold; opacity: 0.5;">FILE COPY</div> (Second run)		<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>	

Palatka, Florida, at which time it was ascertained that WILLIAM A. FERGERTSON was not at home; however, his wife, LIZZIE FERGERTSON, was interviewed concerning the whereabouts of her husband and during the interview she turned over to Confidential Informant T-1 thirteen letters which had been received from M. M. L. GORDON, of Chicago, by WILLIAM A. FERGERTSON, Palatka, Florida. Mrs. FERGERTSON also advised that subject was a member of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia and that she, herself, had joined this organization at her husband's request. She also advised that the organization extended membership to all negroes without charge, and that its purpose was to provide for the return to Africa such members of the negro race as desire to settle there.

WILLIAM A. FERGERTSON was interviewed by the writer on November 20, 1942 at which time the letters obtained by Confidential Informant T-1 were returned to FERGERTSON by Informant and, after being interviewed, WILLIAM A. FERGERTSON furnished to the writer thirteen letters which he had received from M. M. L. GORDON in Chicago. FERGERTSON also turned over to the writer at the same time the roll book of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia which purported to contain the names of all members of the local chapter of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia.

The thirteen letters turned over to the writer by WILLIAM A. FERGERTSON are all addressed to him at Palatka, Florida and they are dated at Chicago, Illinois as follows:

December 16, 1939
 March 2, 1940
 March 30, 1940
 October 1, 1940
 July 16, 1940
 June 16, 1942
 June 23, 1942
 July 3, 1942
 July 20, 1942
 July 29, 1942
 August 7, 1942
 August 28, 1942
 November 7, 1942

These letters have all been marked for identification by the writer's placing his initials on the back of each envelope and on the back of each enclosed letter.

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Subject advised that he had received approximately one letter a month since 1936 from M. M. L. GORDON in Chicago and that he, in turn, wrote to her approximately one each month but that he had destroyed most of the letters which he had received and that the only letters in his possession were the thirteen that he turned over to the writer.

The following is a receipt obtained from WILLIAM A. FERGERTSON under date of November 19, 1942 which is herein set out. The original is being retained in the files of the Miami Field Division:

"Palatka, Florida
November 19, 1942

I, William A. Ferguson give 13 letters which were received by me from M. M. L. Gordon to William A. Godfrey, Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and he may use them in any manner he desires. I also give to William A. Godfrey the Role Book of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia as well as a printed speech of Hon. Theodore G. Bilbo. The letters and the book and speech given my me to William A. Godfrey bear the mark WAGO on the back. When William A. Godfrey has no further use for the above material he may return it to me or destroy it.

/s/ WILLIAM A. FERGERTSON

Witness:

R. C. BRYAN
WILLIAM A. GODFREY, Special Agent, F.B.I."

There are herein set out the contents of the letters received by WILLIAM A. FERGERTSON from M. M. L. GORDON in Chicago and furnished to the writer by FERGERTSON:

"4451 S. State St.
Chicago, Illinois
December 17, 1939

Mr. W.A. Ferguson
Route 1--Box 151
Palatka, Florida.

My dear Mr. Ferguson:-

I am in receipt of your letter of December 11, 1939.

We are so happy to have received your last letter and report for the year of 1939, which was very encouraging. I am glad to break this good news to you; our suffering will soon be over, 1940 will

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bring a great change in this old world of ours. Yet the secret of what 1940 holds for us is still with God.

I believe all men will awaken some to open shame and some to eternal life. We will no longer sniggled at as infidels and ignoramuses; for the hand of God will be plainly shown to everybody.

Keep up the good work.

Yours for the freedom of the race,

/s/ Mrs. M. M. L. Gordon
(Mrs. M. M. L. Gordon, President -----)

MMLG/rw"

* * * * *

"4451 So. State St.
March 2, 1940
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Wm. A. Fergerson
Route 1 Box 151
Palatka, Florida

Dear Mr. Fergerson:-

Your letter of February 27, '40 is at hand. We thank you for your report for this month. We are doing our best to get this bill to the floor for consideration this year; but, so far I have no information from the Senator as to whether it can be done or not.

As soon as I get the information, I shall convey it to you.

Please continue to do what you can in getting the people to join us.

Yours for the freedom of the race,

/s/ M. M. L. GORDON
Mrs. M. M. L. Gordon, Executive Pres.

MMLG/rw"

* * * * *

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"4451 S. State St.
Chicago, Illinois
March 30, 1940

Mr. William A. Fergerson
Route 1—Box 151
Palatka, Florida

Dear Mr. Fergerson:

Your letter of March 25th 1940 was received
and we highly appreciate your report as usual.

I just received a communication from the
Senator this week, stating that because of the war and the
presidential election, our bill will not come out this year.
Politicians will refuse to support while they are seeking
re-election.

We regret that we have to wait another year,
but our bill is in the hands of the Government and we cannot
rush them.

So let us continue to work and look forward
to consideration in early 1941.

Yours for the freedom of the race,

/s/ M. M. L. GORDON.
Mrs. M. M. L. Gordon, Executive President

MMLG/rw"

* * * * *

"4451 S. State Street
Chicago, Illinois
July 16, 1940

Mr. Wm. A. Fergerson
Rte 1, Box 151
Palatka, Florida

Dear Mr. Fergerson:

We hereby acknowledge the receipt of your most excellent
letter of July 12 pointing out the serious conditions existing
in Florida among our race, also their inability to see and to
think for themselves. That is indeed a pitiful situation, but
we can't help it. They have been in slavery for more than four
centuries and misled by their enemies, both black and white, so

they are to be pitied rather than abused. Nevertheless they shall all awaken; some to eternal life, some to open shame, as quoted in the word of God. When they find themselves in the midst of this terrible war when every nation will be fighting to save their own lives this will force our race together, for everybody shall try to kill him. He will be forced to fight to save his life as well as the rest of the nations.

Whereas, if he would organize now, he would be able to save himself without so much trouble and death. But when ignorance has so strongly overshadowed them we are compelled to leave them alone and get on for ourselves. However, don't give up because of this, you shall not be disappointed when the time come they will be running to you for information. Be ready to give it to them because it shall truly come.

I always enjoy a letter from you, pointing out the serious conditions of our race there. I shall give this information to the government. Let me hear from you again.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ M. M. L. GORDON
Mrs. M. M. L. Gordon,
President

MMIG:EL"

"4451 So. State Street
Chicago, Illinois
October 1, 1940

Mr. Wm. A. Fergerson
Rte 1, Box 151
Palatka, Florida

Dear Mr. Fergerson:

We hereby acknowledge your letter of September 23. I am glad to know that you are keeping up with the latest world's events.

You can see for yourself that we are headed for the rocks. We do not know what day we will be plunged into war. But war will not last very long, and when it is over we will be free to do what we wish. There will be no slave bosses ruling black folks after this war is over; black folks will be free all over the world. Those who stand for nationhood will be blessed.

100-6668

So stick to your trust. The war is a Godsend blessing to save black folks. If the war does not come we shall economically starve to death and will be exterminated from the earth.

Therefore let us thank God for this world's war. It is true we have no right to fight for anything unless we are fighting for our own rights. This information I have conveyed to the United States government already.

Hope to hear from you from time to time.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ M. M. L. GORDON
Mrs. M. M. L. Gordon, Pres.

MMIG:EHLT"

* * * * *

"4451 S. State St.
June 16, 1942

Mr. William A. Ferguson
R. 1. Box 272
Palatka, Fla.

My dear Pres. Ferguson:

Your report for April and May were received and highly appreciated by the Executive council. We find no fault in you for skipping the Month of April. It is perfectly alright.

We appreciate you so much for remaining at your post in order that the state of Florida be represented when the roll is called. Please remain at your post that you can be referred to when the time comes. I am glad you interviewed the African that you referred to and the information you received encouraging. The delay in my writing you is due to the fact that we have been in a great battle against the oppositionists. We won the fight, and are still carrying on in a big way. Be of good courage. The time is short.

Keep the faith and your ear to the ground.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ M. M. L. GORDON
M. M. L. Gordon

MMIG/mb"

* * * * *

100-6668

"4451 S. State St.
July 3, 1942

Mr. W. A. Fergerson
R. 1, Box 272
Palatka, Fla.

My dear Pres. Fergerson:

We are acknowledging the receipt of your report of June 22, 1942.

We are happy to note that you are still at your post and intend to stay. I am very glad that you sent in your report at this time because the meeting of Council is tonight. This is highly appreciated.

The work is going on fine here and we hope the spirit of your members is as strong as yours, because strong members helps us to go on.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ M. M. L. GORDON
M. M. L. Gordon

MIG/mo"

* * * * *

"July 20, 1942

Mr. Wm. A. Ferguson
R.1, Box 272,
Palatka, Fla.

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

The Peace Movement of Ethiopia is holding a convention here that will close on July 26 and if it is possible for you to attend on that last night we will be so grateful to have you.

Out of this convention we are going to send a telegram to this nation asking for the freedom of our people and repatriation now. If it isn't practical for you to attend personally, please send a telegram endorsing this appeal which we will convey to Washington along with ours. If you send a telegram, direct it here no later than 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon in order that I may use it in the Sunday night meeting and that it might represent the state of Florida.

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Let your telegram read thus: "We the members of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia from the state of Florida sincerely co-operate with all the rest of the states in the union that request the President of the United States to please set free all black slaves of America and repatriate them to their fatherland, Africa."

Wm. A. Ferguson.

Your telegram may consist of fewer words to keep the cost down but be sure to make it clear that you agree with our appeal.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ M. M. L. GORDON
M. M. L. Gordon, Ex. Pres.

MLG/mo"

* * * * *

"4451 S. State St.
June 23, 1942

Mr. William A. Ferguson
R. 1, Box 273
Palatka, Fla.

My dear Mr. Ferguson:

We are sorry to know that we had neglected sending your credentials. We hope you will excuse our oversight. You will find them enclosed in this letter.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ M. M. L. GORDON
M. M. L. Gordon

"Chicago, Illinois
4451 So. State St.

February 13, 1942

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that the bearer, Mr. WILLIAM A. FERGUSON is duly authorized by the Executive Council of THE PEACE MOVEMENT OF ETHIOPIA to represent and protect the interests of THE PEACE MOVEMENT OF ETHIOPIA, in every city and state where individuals of African descent may reside; to establish Locals wherever he

100-6668

may deem it advisable, and to give proper information concerning
THE PEACE MOVEMENT OF ETHIOPIA.

Kindly extend to him the proper courtesies and co-operation,
for which we thank you.

/s/ M. M. L. GORDON
Mrs. M. M. L. Gordon, Pres.

/s/ ROSIE L. GEARRING
~~E. Holliday~~, Secretary

Null and Void after February 14, 1943

MML/mo"

* * * * *

"4451 S. State St.
Chicago, Ill.
July 29, 1942

Mr. Wm. Ferguson
R. 1, Box 272
Palatka, Fla.

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

We thank you for the telegram sent to our convention July 26.
It came in on time for the meeting for Sunday night. It played a
great part in putting over the work we had in view. Four states
were represented by telegram. This gave us 28 states represented
in the convention.

You will find enclosed a copy of the telegram sent to President
Roosevelt, Senator Bilbo, and Col. Cox from the convention, and as
soon as a reply is made, if any, you will receive the information.

We highly appreciate you and your local for your co-operation
in this convention. Keep up the good work in that state. Your
telegram put the state of Florida over on the night of the 26th.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ M. M. L. GORDON
M. M. L. Gordon

MLG/mo"

The following is an enclosure contained in the above letter:

"CONVENTION OF THE PEACE MOVEMENT OF ETHIOPIA

SUBJECTS UNDER DISCUSSION

1. CAN THE BLACK MAN BE MADE COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT?
2. WHAT STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TO BRING ABOUT A PERMANENT SOLUTION FOR THE RACE PROBLEM IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT?
3. SHOULD THE MATTER BE DELAYED, OR SHOULD THE BLACK MAN ACT NOW?
4. IF THE UNITED NATIONS LOSE THE WAR, WHAT ABOUT THE BLACK MAN'S FUTURE IN THE U.S.?
5. CAN COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE FOR THE BLACK MAN EDUCATIONALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY BE OBTAINED THROUGH SEPARATION AND REPATRIATION?
6. WHY SHOULD THE BLACK MAN CHOOSE AFRICA AS HIS DESTINATION?"

Following is the copy of the telegram referred to in the above letter:

"256 E. 47th St.
Chicago, Ill.
July 26, 1942

Col. E.S. Cox
924 E. Main St.
Richmond, Va.

Dear Col. Cox:

We the officers and members of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia meeting in Convention in the city of Chicago, Sunday July 26, 1942 at 356 E. 47th St., with 28 states represented herein, do hereby demand from the President and Congress that we be repatriated to Liberia, West Coast Africa now.

As we have served our time in slavery and there is no further need of us, we desire to call your attention to a Memorial sent to you by the Peace Movement of Ethiopia November 15, 1933. Now the Movement has upward of 4 million people.

Coming from the floor of this convention a unanimous vote asking this benign, provident and fair-minded government to give immediate consideration to our demands.

Whereas justice cannot be obtained for black people in this country, four centuries have proven this. Because of these facts, we demand (1) that black slaves be given complete freedom now, (2) that we be repatriated to Africa now, (3) that brutal murder be stopped now. (4) We demand that we be permitted to go where we can develop our own schools, institutions, industries, and national affairs which can only be accomplished in Africa. (5) We demand that amalgamation of these two races be stopped now. (6) We demand that our Bill now pending in the U.S. Senate be given some consideration now.

We have here no horrified or foolish preaching about the evils of violence. (See our Memorial) The issue that faces us today is the fight against starvation, the masses with the right of self-determination in the fight for repatriation.

Carrying out these demands will solve the race problem in this country and set free the helpless and ostracized people. This we believe, will bring peace to this nation.

We anxiously await your reply.

THE PEACE MOVEMENT OF ETHIOPIA

Headquarters, 4451 S. State St.
Chicago, Ill."

* * * * *

"4451 S. State St.
Chicago, Ill.
Aug. 7, 1942

Mr. Wm. A. Fergerson
R. 1, Box 272
Palatka, Fla.

Dear Mr. Fergerson:

We received your letter of July 27. We highly appreciate your sending the report in time for the meeting of the council.

It is encouraging to know that you are still trying to wake sleeping people. We hope you can get some of the people to wake up and work with you.

100-6668

Our convention was a great success. We received a reply to our telegram from Col. Cox. He was very enthusiastic over the move we made in sending the telegram to Washington, and sent his best wishes. Quoting from his letter, 'I am proud of the P.M.O.E. This great work will succeed.

Hoping for success, we are,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ M. M. L. GORDON
M. M. L. Gordon

MLG/mc"

* * * * *

"4451 S. State Street
Chicago, Illinois
August 28, 1942

Mr. Wm. A. Fergerson
R. F. D. 1, Box 272
Palatka, Fla.

Dear Mr. Fergerson:

We are in receipt of your letter of August 17th bringing in your report for the month, for which we are very grateful to you.

We received a reply from Senator Bilbo concerning our telegram. He spoke very encouraging about it. We also heard from Col. Cox who said the matter would come up before a conference in the very near future. But they know that white people in this country are afraid because they are fighting a losing war, and it will take sometime before the matter reaches its culmination.

We highly appreciate the courage and interest shown by you to continue to keep the work up in the State of Fla. So keep in touch with us from time to time.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ M. M. L. GORDON
Mrs. M. M. L. Gordon,
Pres.

MMLG:EHT"

* * * * *

100-6668

"4451 South State St.
Chicago, Illinois
November 7, 1942

Mr. William A. Fergerson
Route 1 — Box 272
Palatka, Florida

My dear Mr. Fergerson:

We are acknowledging yours of Sept. 28th
also yours of Oct. 19th. We are very glad to hear from you
and regret that we have been unable to write you before now.

But we have been involved in a controversy
and have been since Sept. 20th.

But God is good and will take care of those
who believe. Keep the faith and courage and soon our work will
be over.

Yours for the freedom of the race,

/s/ M. M. L. GORDON
Mrs. M. M. L. Gordon, Executive Pres.

MMLG/rlg"

* * * * *

All of the above letters were written on the letterhead of
The Peace Movement Of Ethiopia, upon which the following names appear:

Executive President,
M. M. L. GORDON,
4451 S. State St.

Secretary General,
E. HOLLIDAY

1st Assistant President General,
J. ROCKMORE

2nd Assistant President General,
H. BROWN

National Organizer
MRS. C. J. ALLEN

Chaplain,
D. J. LOGAN,

The above 13 letters are being forwarded to the Chicago Field
Division.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

W. H. WERRINEATHER, Chr.
J. E. HART
W. P. JOHNSON
E. D. JUNNIOR
H. HUNT
CELIA J. ALLEN
JAMES GOODLETT
G. CALVIN
M. M. L. GORDON
E. HOLIDAY
J. ROCKMORE
H. BROWN
D. J. LOGAN

It is to be noted that a photostatic copy of a letter dated January 21, 1941, addressed to WILLIAM A. FERGERSON, was furnished to the Miami Field Division, which was not in the possession of WILLIAM A. FERGERSON; however, the photostatic copy of the letter was exhibited to WILLIAM A. FERGERSON at which time he acknowledged that he had received said letter.

The following is a signed statement obtained from WILLIAM A. FERGERSON relative to the receipt of various letters from Madam GORDON and his connection and activities with subject organization. The original of this statement is being forwarded to the Chicago Field Division along with copies of this report:

"Palatka, Florida
November 23, 1942

I, WILLIAM A. FERGERSON, of Hicksville, Palatka, Florida, do, of my own free will, make this statement to WILLIAM A. GODFREY, and JAMES P. DONOVAN who have told me that they are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have been told that I do not have to make any statement and that anything I say can be used against me. No one has threatened me, and I have not been promised anything to get me to make this statement.

I was born at Whitehall, South Carolina on August 25, 1886. I lived in Georgia and Florida until 1916 when I moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I stayed in the North until 1932 living most of the time in New Jersey. I came back to Florida in 1931 and have lived here ever since.

In the early part of 1936, I read an article in the Pittsburgh Courier, which told about a plan to return the Negro people to Africa. The story gave the name of M. M. L. GORDON and I wrote to her telling her that I was interested in The Peace Movement of Ethiopia which the newspaper told about. I asked for information about the Movement and she wrote back and told me to get all the names that I could and send them back to her. She also told me to keep a record of all the names I got.

After I got this letter I went to work to get all the names of colored people that I could and I wrote them all down in a book which I have given to Special Agent GODFREY. All of the names in this book are members of the Peace Movement but I did not talk to all of the people whose names are written there.

About three months after I wrote to Mrs. GORDON the first time, she wrote to me and told me that I had been made the leader of the

Peace Movement of Ethiopia, for the State of Florida, to keep up the good work of getting members, and that she would make me the President of the Movement in Florida.

At about the same time Mrs. GORDON wrote me a letter in which she told me to sign two typewritten letters which she was sending me, and have someone else sign as Secretary, and then mail one letter to Senator BILBO and one to Senator PEPPER. I signed both letters as the President and J. W. HINES signed each letter as Secretary. After the letters were signed, I mailed them to the Senators as Mrs. GORDON had told me to. J. W. HINES was appointed Secretary by me but that is all that he ever did. He left Palatka about three or four years ago, and the last time that I heard of him he was in Jacksonville, Florida.

About three months after I wrote to Mrs. GORDON she wrote me a letter in which she said that Members could have Membership Cards for ten cents and the Pin for five cents. She said that it was not necessary to have a card or a pin to be a member, and nobody had to pay any dues. All that a colored person had to do to become a member of the Movement was to give their name. In the membership book which I made I put down the names of some colored people whom I did not see; usually these names were given to me by some member of the family. After I got the people's names I sent them to M. M. L. GORDON at 4451 S. State Street, Chicago. I got my own membership card and pin about three or four months after I started sending in names; I sent in money for four or five other members to get them cards and pins but I can't remember who those members were. I think that I sent about one dollar to Mrs. GORDON to get these cards and pins.

From the time when I first wrote to Mrs. GORDON in 1936 I received a letter from her every month until two or three months ago. I sent her a report every month telling her what I was doing from 1936 until this month November 1942.

In all the work that I did for the Peace Movement of Ethiopia, I took orders from M. M. L. GORDON; whatever she told me to do I did. In July of 1942 I got a letter from Mrs. GORDON in which she asked me to send a telegram to her so that she could send it to the President of the United States. The letter was dated July 20, 1942 and I copied the telegram as she had it written in her letter and sent it to her in Chicago. The telegram read as follows: 'We the members of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia from the State of Florida sincerely cooperate with all the rest of the states in the union that request the President of the United States to please set free all black slaves of America and repatriate them to their Fatherland, Africa.'

In June of 1942, I received a letter from Mrs. GORDON which was dated June 23, 1942, and stated that she was sending me my credentials to represent and establish locals of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia any place that I wanted to. The credentials were signed by M. M. L. GORDON, President and ROSIE L. GEARRING who signed over the name of E. A. HOLLIDAY, Secretary. I have delivered these credentials to Special Agent GODFREY with the letter which came with them.

Most of the letters which I received from Mrs. GORDON I have destroyed, and those which I saved I have turned over to Special Agent GODFREY. The dates on the letters which I gave to Mr. GODFREY are as follows: December 16, 1939; March 2, 1940; March 30, 1940; July 16, 1940; October 1, 1940; June 16, 1942; July 3, 1942; July 20, 1942; June 23, 1942; July 29, 1942; August 7, 1942; August 28, 1942; November 7, 1942. There are thirteen letters in all and I have also given Special Agent GODFREY my membership card and pin.

After Senator BILBO's speech in Washington I wrote to Mrs. GORDON and asked her what the Senator meant when he said that God made the white man but he didn't know who made the negro. Mrs. GORDON wrote back that I must remember that the Senator was speaking to white man; in the letter she said, 'We have to be careful what we say because letters often go astray. When we have to depend on the crocodile to cross the stream, we must pat him on the back until we get on the other side'. From her letter I knew that when she spoke of the 'crocodile' she meant the white man.

In another letter which Mrs. GORDON wrote to me about three years ago, she told me to show the letter to the police if they came to my house while we were holding a meeting. I had written to her asking what to do if an officer came and the letter which she said to show him said that President ROOSEVELT, Mrs. ROOSEVELT and all the high officials had investigated the Movement and saw that it was a free Movement and they had given 'relief' to hold a meeting. About the same time she sent me a copy of the by-laws of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia but I have lost the book. Special Agent DONOVAN has read me parts of the Constitution of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia and those parts were the same as the by-laws I received from Mrs. GORDON.

Mrs. GORDON always gave me orders to do what she wanted done. In her first letter she told me to call on all the colored people that I could and try to get their names as members of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia; she also told me to go out and talk about the Movement and make speeches wherever I could. I spoke at the Mount Carmel Church at Toddsville in June or July of 1942, and at the Crosby Church on 18th Street, Palatka, and also at the Baptist Church in Shiloh. Every time that I spoke I either read a

letter or two from Mrs. GORDON or had somebody read them for me. After the letters were read I would explain the Movement to the people and also the letters which Mrs. GORDON had written.

I remember receiving a letter from Mrs. GORDON in which she asked me to keep on working. I had written her saying that the people would not listen to me and that I was going to quit. She wrote saying that 'if the people in Palatka wont listen to you, go on farther down the road where they will listen to you; don't give up the fight, bombs can do more with them than you can'. In another letter which she wrote to me she said, 'Watch the war when it gets in the Pacific', but I didn't know exactly what she meant because we were not in war when I got the letter. She also wrote me a letter in which she said, 'We have to fight for our rights, and remember that no one is going to do anything for the black man but the black man himself'.

About three years ago Mrs. GORDON asked me to attend a convention of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia at Washington, D. C., but I could not go because I didn't have any money. In her letter she said that she wanted me to come and represent the movement as a delegate from the State of Florida. After the Convention she wrote me a letter telling me what had happened at the convention and said that there were many delegates there from different parts of the country.

Under order which I got from M. M. L. GORDON I tried to get members for the Peace Movement of Ethiopia in and around Palatka, Florida. I did this by talking to them in their homes, at the places where I was working and by making speeches and reading letters from Mrs. GORDON in the colored churches. When I first started working for Mrs. GORDON she told me to have meetings of the colored people and get their help in getting members for the Movement. I called a meeting to be held at my house but the only person who came to the meeting was ~~JAMES NORFOLK~~ who lives here in Palatka.

Special Agents GODFREY and DONOVAN have shown me a picture of a copy of a letter which I received from M. M. L. GORDON. I have read the copy and know that it is a true and correct copy of the original letter which I received. The letter is dated January 21, 1941 and one of the paragraphs of it is as follows:

'Have no fear for the Africans. Before this war is over Africa will be redeemed from the hands of aliens and Her sons throughout the world will be repatriated to their own land.

We are still working to carry out our objective; yet, this damnable war has retarded our work to some extent. We hardly know what

will happen next. But it does not matter what takes place the black people of the world will be free when the white men have finished committing suicide. The storm in the East is rising very fast which is vital to us. Please watch carefully the battle in the Pacific and advise your people to allow nothing to keep them apart at this time. When this battle comes to the Pacific it means a complete end of the present order of things.'

In June or July of this year I had the letter dated January 21, 1941 which I received from M. M. L. GORDON read in the Mount Carmel Church at Toddsville. This letter and the one dated June 16, 1942 were read by CHOICE JONES who lives in East Palatka and after she finished reading them I explained what the letters meant. I knew that we were at war with Japan when this letter was read, and I knew that the statement in the letter about the Pacific battle meant the Japanese. I do not remember saying anything about the Japanese in explaining these letters to the people. I knew that the letters which I received from Mrs. GORDON about the white man committing suicide and about the war in the Pacific were all bad and I know that I was foolish to have them read, because they were against my country. I didn't mean to do any harm to the United States and I thought that I was just helping the colored man. I am just a poor ignorant man and I have had no schooling, and I just did what Mrs. GORDON told me.

I have read the above statement it is true and it is three pages.

WILLIAM A. FERGERSON

Witnessed:

WILLIAM A. GODFREY, Special Agent F. B. I.
JAMES P. DONOVAN, Special Agent F. B. I. "

There was also obtained from WILLIAM A. FERGERSON his membership card in the Peace Movement of Ethiopia. This card is approximately three by one and one-half inches; white paper with black print; the left hand corner contains a printed Sphinx and the right hand corner a crescent star; in the center is printed, "One God -- One Country -- One People, Membership Card of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia, To Return People of African Descent to their Motherland Africa." The card is filled out as follows:

"Name: <u>WILLIAM A. FERGERSEN</u>	
Address: <u>Palatka, Florida</u>	
Ex-Pres.: <u>M. M. L. GORDON</u>	Vice Pres.: <u>J. ROCKMORE</u>
Sec'y Gen.: <u>E. HOLLIDAY</u>	Local <u> </u>

This membership card has been identified by the writer's placing his initials on the back thereof and is being forwarded to the Chicago Field Division along with copies of this report.

A membership pin was obtained from WILLIAM A. FERGERSON. This pin bears the letters, "The Lion of Judah, King of Ethiopia". It bears a picture in the center of a yellow and green flag with a lion in the center and a white and blue flag on the right. This pin has been identified by the writer's placing his initials on the back thereof and is being forwarded to the Chicago Field Division along with copies of this report.

A brown, paper-bound Order Book, entitled in ink, "Peace Movement of Ethiopia, Role. Book, W. M. A. FERGERSON, Palatka, Florida," dated April First, 1936, was obtained from WILLIAM A. FERGERSON and is identified on the back thereon with initials of writer. This book purports to contain the names of members of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia in the State of Florida. It contains approximately one hundred names; however, investigation of the names contained therein discloses that in many cases an individual would furnish his name to FERGERSON signifying his desire to become affiliated with the Peace Movement of Ethiopia and at the same time the name of the prospective member along with the names of his wife and children and any relatives or friends living nearby would also be placed in the roll book. Upon interview, many of these individuals had no knowledge of subject organization other than that they had heard of its existence among the negro society of Palatka. The following is a list of names as set out in the roll book:

"WILLIAM A. FERGERSON, Molder
Iron or Brass
LIZZIE FERGERSON
HARRY HEMMINGWAY
EVELAND HEMMINGWAY
MARVIN HEMMINGWAY
JOHN CALDEWELL
LUDDIE MAY CALDEWELL
EDIES CALDEWELL
EDNA MAY CALDEWELL, Rt. 1, Box 151, Palatka, Fla.
ISAAC ALIZANDER
LILEAR ALIZANDER
ANER LEE ALIZANDER, 724 Main St., Palatka, Fla.
M. B. COPPOCK, Fireman
MAGGIE COPPOCK
IDELA ROSE
FANNY MAY ROSE

MARY ROSE
 EDDNER LEE GREEN, Rt. 1 Box 71, Palatka, Fla.
 IVIE FULOOD
 SILVIE FULOOD
 ALFORD FULOOD
 FEFHMORE FULOOD, Rt. 1, Box 157, Palatka, Fla.
 L. LOGAN
 LOTTIE LOGAN, 812 N. 11 St., Palatka, Fla.
 GRANT DUNHAM
 LULA DUNHAM
 ROBERT SHOLER
 WILLIE SHOLER
 LESSUM SHOLER, 819 N. 11 St. Palatka, Fla.
 JOHN PACON, Palatka, Fla.
 GEORGE KIRKLAND, 1000 Mallson St., Palatka, Fla.
 H. H. MERRICKS
 HATTIE MERRICKS
 SALLIE MERRICKS, Rt. 1, Box 210, Palatka, Fla.
 JAMES BRITS
 ETHER BRITS, Palatka, Fla.
 JOHN WESTON, Palatka, Fla.
 JOE WATS
 ANNIE WATS, Palatka, Fla.
 HENRY REDON, Palatka, Fla.
 CHARLEY MOUNT, Palatka, Fla.
 IDA HARREAY
 LESSIE HARREAY
 BILL HARREAY
 CUSMORE HARREAY
 WILLIE FREEMAN
 FELID FREEMAN
 WILL ASTOR, 5017 NO. 11 St., Palatka, Fla.
 EDMOND BELL, 1004 Olive St., Palatka, Fla.
 MAGGIE MOORE
 FANNIE MOORE
 CARLINE MOORE
 ROBERT MOORE
 HENRY MOORE
 SING BABY MOORE
 CRETTE MOORE
 NIAER MOORE, Hopkins, Fla.
 TOM LORNE, 819 No. 11 St., Palatka, Fla.
 CHARLIE HAMILTON, Palatka, Fla.
 MARID HAMILTON

LORDIA DUNHAM
 MARTHA DUNHAM, P. O. Booklin, G.A.
 ALFORT DUNHAM skilt labore
 HICKS MORE
 HENRY MORE
 JOKNEY MORE
 TRADE/MAGIE MORE
 ROBERT SHOLER, Hopkins Fla.
 RICHARD MILLER
 BEN COPELAND Traded Measnenry
 B. COPELAND, Rt. 1 Box 83 Palatka, Fla.
 CLERIAN HUGGER Bricklear
 ANNE HUGGER
 DARIUS HUGGER
 WILLIE D. HUGGER
 JAMES HUGGER
 CLOUTHER HUGGER
 SADY BELL HUGGER
 OREIDE HUGGER, R 1. Box 83 Palatka Fla
 CHARLEY JOHNSON
 MILTIEMER JOHNSON
 MAREN JOHNSON
 MILES JOHNSON, 414 No 7 St Palatka Fla
 JAMES HAMPSHIRE
 FREAHAMES HAMPSHIRE
 ALAS LEE HAMPSHIRE
 FLORDIA MAY HAMPSHIRE, R 1. Box 83 Palatka Fla
 CARRIE KEENKELL
 WILBERLIN SMITH
 THERESA CHARLIS, 708 No 10 St Palatka Fla
 FOREST PARNELL
 ELONGLEN PARNELL
 ANNIE PARNELL
 JOHNIE PARNELL
 ODESSA KEENKELL, 708 No 10 St Palatka Fla
 JOE KEENKELL
 LENORD KEENKELL, 1914 Daries St Jacksonville Fla
 LEROY GORDON
 ADDIE GORDON
 QUTIASNAY GORDON
 JESTINER GORDON
 L. C. GORDON
 LEWIS GORDON
 REMER
 CHINEATER GORDON

~~CHARLEY JOHNSON~~
 Mother and Children
 PAULINE HANKINS
 LOUISE ----- *Hankins*
 KAMULE ----- *Hankins*
 WILLIE -----
 MARY -----
 EVELINA -----
 LOUISE -----
 KATHRINE -----
 PAULINE -----
 MILREGE -----
 NATHINE -----, General delivres Palatka Fla
 LEILA LANE, 1098 Louisana St Jacksonville Fla
 HORRIS YOUNG
 SEALER YOUNG,
 HOLISTER, Fla
 S. B. BATTLE
 OLIS BATTLE
 VIOLE BATTLE
 THELMA BATTLE
 MAGGIE BATTLE
 SAEMON JUNA BATTLE
 ROSA WILLIAMS, R 1. Box 155 Palatka Fla
 JULIS EDDIMIS
 B. H. BERTHA EDDIMIS
 JUNER EDDIMIS, R 1. Box 155 Palatka Fla
 ALLEN ADAMS
 LOUTHER ADAMS
 JAMES ADAMS
 ELLISE ADAMS
 FRANK ADAMS
 ROSELE ADAMS, Bostwick, Fla
 ROSA BOYD
 WESTLEY BOYD
 WILLIE W. BOYD
 MAMIE WILLIAMS, R 1. Box 166 Palatka Fla
 WILLIE ADAMS
 JOHN RICHARDSON
 RUTH RICHARDSON
 EDDIE RICHARDSON
 PAUL RICHARDSON, R 1. Box 18 Palatka Fla
 WILLIAM H. KEMP Riberber
 NANCY KEMP

LEORY KEMP
 WILLIE KEMP
 ALICE KEMP
 J. W. HINES Plumber
 SARAH L. HINES
 IDA P. GIBSON
 SYLVETER GIBSON
 JESSIE KEMP RIBERTER
 SYLVETER KEMP, Rt. Box 152 Palatka Fla
 THOMAS MAXWELL Bricklayer
 BURTHER MAXWELL
 FRANK HICKS, Palatka Fla
 JANNIE KERKIN
 CLIFFORT KERKIN
 HARVIE KERKIN, Palatka Fla
 FRANK OLIVER
 INEAS OLLIVER
 LEACEY OLLIVER
 MARY OLLIVER
 JAMES OLLIVER
 MAGGIE OLLIVER
 ANNIE OLLIVER, Palatka Fla
 JOE WILLIAMS, Stillmore, G. A.
 ESTERSTELL FREMON, SwaynsBoro, G. A.
 A. B. SMITH
 ANNIE SMITH
 WILLIE SMITH
 ROSER SMITH
 A. B. SMITH JR, 311 N. 9 Street Palatka Fla
 ESIA ARL Mort mixer
 JANNIE ARL
 DELIA RIVINS
 SAMIA ELAIR, 923 Oak St Palatka Fla
 BEN SURMON, Palatka Fla
 L. G. KIRKLAND
 BLANCH -----
 RUTH -----
 EARTHER LEE -----
 RICHDOON-----, 814 Olive St, Palatka Fla
 WILLIAM MACK
 LIZZIE MACK
 ROBERT MACK
 NETTIE MACK
 INEZE MACK
 CEPHAS MACK
 HENRATTA MACK
 IRNE MACK, 1011 Read St Palatka Fla"

The above mentioned roll book is being forwarded to the Chicago Field Division along with copies of this report.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents HENRY L. BEARDSLEY, JOSEPH A. LEHMAN and JACK H. BORDEN:

AT PALATKA, FLORIDA:

It is to be noted that all persons interviewed during the course of this investigation are colored.

Subject WILLIAM A. FERGENSEN, when questioned as to the names appearing in his membership book, advised that comparatively few of these people had actually been contacted by him. He stated that he would contact one member of a family and explain the movement to him and obtain his permission to put his name down as a member. He would also obtain from the person contacted the names of all of his family and friends and in some cases, the Subject even put down the names of children not yet born as members. He advised that the reason for doing this was that he wished to obtain a large number of names as members and that he figured the leaders of the movement would in no way know that he had not contacted all of the persons named and listed as members.

JAMES NORFORD, Hicksville, advised that he had talked over the Peace Movement of Ethiopia with the Subject, FERGENSEN on numerous occasions and that he had advised FERGENSEN that he would support the movement and become a member. NORFORD stated, however, that he never obtained a membership card or pin. NORFORD advised that Subject FERGENSEN had read him several letters concerning the movement which were signed by M. M. L. GORDON, one letter of which was dated June 16, 1942, signed by GORDON, and advised FERGENSEN "to be of good courage, etc." NORFORD, however, refused to identify this letter and claimed that he had not talked to the Subject concerning the movement within the past two years.

The following signed statement was obtained from JAMES NORFORD:

"Palatka Fla.
November 24, 1942

I, JAMES NORFORD after having been advised by HENRY L. BEARDSLEY and JACK H. BORDEN, who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that I do not have to make any statement and that any statement I make may be used in Court, make the following free and voluntary statement. No threats or promises have been made to me.

I live at 1609 Main Street, Palatka, Fla. and I have lived in Palatka for about 22 years. I have known WILLIAM FERGUSON for about the last five years.

About four years ago FERGUSON started to talking to me about a peace movement for the colored people. He told me this movement was to organize the colored people to go to Africa. He told me he was getting his information from a Mrs. M. M. L. GORDON of Chicago. I ask FERGUSON if the government knew about this and he said Mrs. GORDON told him the President knows about it and that she was going to send the names of all the members to the President. I told FERGUSON then that he could put my name down as a member.

After this, FERGUSON and I talked about this organization and one time, about 2½ years ago, we were going to have a meeting of the members at FERGUSON'S house. Only one other member and I got to this meeting and I disremember who that man was. Since nobody was there, we didn't have no discussion of the movement that night.

About 2 years ago, FERGUSON read me a letter which he said was from Mrs. M. M. L. GORDON. I can't remember all that was in the letter. Mr. BEARDSLEY has just read me a letter dated October 1, 1940 and addressed to Mr. WILLIAM A. FERGUSON, Route 1, Box 151 Palatka, Fla. This letter is signed M. M. L. GORDON and it sounds like the letter FERGUSON read to me.

About two and one half years ago I was talking to FERGUSON about the movement and he told me that the Japs were for the colored people. He said Germany and Italy had started to take a part of Africa and that the Japs had stepped in and stopped them. He also said it looked like the Japs were the only friends the colored people had. I don't know where FERGUSON got this information.

I considered myself a member of this organization but I never did get a card or pin.

This statement of 2 pages and four lines has been read to me by Mr. BEARDSLEY in the presence of Mr. BORDEN and all of it is true. I am signing my name to this as it is what I said.

/s/ JAMES NORFORD

Witnessed By:

/s/ JACK H. BORDEN
Special Agent F.B.I.

/s/ HENRY L. BEARDSLEY
Special Agent, F.B.I."

PAULINE HANKINS, Hicksville, advised that FERGERSEN had talked with her about the Peace Movement of Ethiopia and it was her understanding that the movement was started to organize all of the Negroes and obtain their passage back to Africa. PAULINE further advised that it was her understanding that if the Negroes refused to volunteer, organize and return to Africa, that the United States Government was going to force them to return. PAULINE advised that she had become a member of this organization and that she had obtained four membership cards, one for herself and one for each of her three children. A diligent search was made by PAULINE and the agents, with her permission, but the cards could not be located.

PAULINE HANKINS further stated that in the event she found these cards she would turn them over to Special Agent GODFREY. She made the following signed statement:

Palatka Fla.
November 24, 1942

I, PAULINE HANKINS, having been advised by JACK H. BORDEN and HENRY L. BEARDSLEY, identified to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that I do not have to make a statement, make the following free and voluntary statement. No threats or promises have been made to me and I know this statement can be used in court.

I have lived in Palatka since 1936 and my present address is Hicksville, a part of Palatka. I have known WILLIAM FERGUSON almost ever since I came to Palatka.

About 3 years ago WILLIAM FERGUSON came to my house and started telling me about the Peace Movement of Ethiopia. He told me that Senator BILBO was behind the movement and that Madam GORDON, a woman in Chicago was where he got his information. He told me he was trying to get members and wanted me to be a member. I told him he could send my name in as a member and I also told him to send the names of 3 of my children. Their names are WILLIE LEON HANKINS, KAMULL HANKINS and LOUISE HANKINS. FERGUSON didn't talk with them. Each of us got a membership card. I have been shown a card by Mr. BORDEN that is made out to WILLIAM A. FERGERSEN of Palatka, Fla., which states it is a membership card of "The Peace Movement of Ethiopia and is signed M. M. L. GORDON, Ex-Pres., J. ROCKMORE, Vice-Pres., and E. HOLLIDAY, Secy-Gen. This card is like the ones my children and I got.

FERGUSON talked with me about the peace movement several times and read me some letters from a Madam GORDON. I don't remember what was in the letters. He told me one time that Madam GORDON or Senator BILBO had said that if the colored people didn't agree to go back when the transportation was furnished that we would have to go later the best way we could; that the government was going to make us go.

I am unable to find the four membership cards at this time.

I have read this statement and signed my name to both pages. It is all true.

/s/ PAULINE HANKINS

Witnessed:

/s/ JACK H. BORDEN
Special Agent F.B.I.

/s/ HENRY L. BEARDSLEY
Special Agent F.B.I."

GEORGE KIRKLAND advised that FERGENSEN had approached him concerning his joining the Peace Movement of Ethiopia and at that time he explained it to him as being a movement backed by the United States Government to organize the Negroes in order that they might return to Africa. KIRKLAND advised that he gave FERGENSEN permission to add his name as a member of this organization.

The following is a signed statement of GEORGE KIRKLAND:

Palatka, Fla.
11-24-42

I, GEORGE KIRKLAND, make the following statement to Special Agents JACK H. BORDEN and HENRY L. BEARDSLEY, who I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to make this statement, and I know I do not have to make any statement.

I live in Palatka, Fla., and I have known WILLIAM FERGUSON for about 7 years. About 5 years ago WILLIAM FERGUSON, told me that he was a member of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia, and that he was trying to get members to support this movement. FERGUSON told me that the movement was trying to get the colored race organized and try to get all of us to go back to Africa. He told me that all of our names were going to be sent to the President of the movement, M. M. L. GORDON in Chicago, and that she was going to send them to the President.

I told FERGUSON that I would become a member and support the movement. I never purchased a card or a pin from the movement.

The above statement of 1 page has been read to me and it is a true statement of the facts. No threats or promises have been made to me and I signed this statement of my own freewill, knowing that it may be used in court against me.

/s/ GEORGE KIRKLAND

/s/ HENRY L. BEARDSLEY

/s/ JACK H. BORDEN

Special Agents, F.B.I."

WILLIAM BUTLER, advised that he is a Deacon at the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Toddsville, Florida, and stated that after he had delivered a sermon in his church, FERGERSEN got up and requested permission to have someone read some letters to the Congregation. BUTLER said that CHOICE JONES read two letters to the Congregation at FERGERSEN'S request, one of which letters BUTLER identified as being identical with a letter addressed to WILLIAM A. FERGERSEN, dated January 21, 1941 and signed by M. M. L. GORDON. BUTLER could not identify the second letter which was read at that time.

The following signed statement was given by WILLIAM BUTLER:

"Palatka, Fla.

11-23-42

I, WILLIAM BUTLER, make the following statement to JACK H. BORDEN and HENRY L. BEARDSLEY, Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make the following statement of my own free will and no threats of promises of any kind have been made to me.

I have lived in Palatka, Fla., for the past 17 years, and have known WILL FERGUSON for about 5 years. In the latter part of 1939 FERGUSON stopped by my home and talked to me about joining some organization of which he was head, and which concerned Africa. He told me if I bought a pin I would become a member. I told him that I was not interested in the organization and he left.

I have been a deacon of the Mount Carmel Freewill Baptist Church in Toddsville for the last 5 years. About the first of July, 1942, FERGUSON, who is not a member of my church, came to one of our services. After the sermon FERGUSON stood up and said he had a letter he wanted someone to read to the congregation. CHOICE JONES read a letter which I remember was addressed to WILL FERGUSON, and said something about thanking FERGUSON for being the first to send in his 1941 report. I remember that the letter said something about the

battle of the Pacific. The letter dated January 21, 1941, addressed to Mr. WILLIAM A. FERGUSON, R-1, Box 151, Palatka, Fla., which has been showed to me by Special Agents JACK H. BORDEN and HENRY L. BEARDSLEY; and which I have read, appears to me to be the letter which CHOICE JONES read at my church.

After CHOICE JONES finished reading the letter, FERGUSON got up and told the Congregation that he wanted the letter read, so that we would know what he was doing.

This statement consisting of two pages has been read to me by Special Agent BEARDSLEY, and it is a true statement of the facts. I have signed this statement of my own freewill and I know that it may be used against me in a court of law.

Signed
/s/ WILLIAM BUTLER

Witnessed

/s/ HENRY L. BEARDSLEY, Special Agent
F.B.I.,
/s/ JACK H. BORDEN
Special Agent F.B.I."

The signed statements set out above are being retained in the file of the Miami Field Division.

ROSA BOYD advised that she is a member of the Allen Chapel, a Methodist Church in Hicksville, Florida, and advised that four or five years ago, FERGERSON appeared at the Allen Chapel church and after the service requested permission to explain something to the Congregation. She said that FERGERSEN started talking to the congregation in words which she could not understand and that everyone started laughing and FERGERSON retired.

She stated that FERGERSEN never reappeared at that church to give any talks. ROSA advised that subsequent to this time, her son-in-law, ALLEN ADAMS (now deceased), advised her that he had given FERGERSEN her name along with his own to be added to the membership roles of the movement. ROSA stated that all she knew about the movement was that it had been an attempt to organize all of the Negroes who wished to return to Africa and that it was her understanding that if such organization was large enough, that the Government was going to pay their transportation to Africa. ROSA was questioned concerning any pro-Japanese statements which might be made by FERGERSEN but advised that she had not heard any such statements.

ROSA BOYD'S daughter, LOUETHEL ADAMS, widow of ALLEN ADAMS, was contacted but advised she knew nothing whatsoever concerning the movement. She stated that all the cards which her husband had, including his Social Security card, had been destroyed at the time of her husband's death.

The following persons were contacted and all of them advised that they had heard of the movement which FERGERSEN was attempting to organize and that they understood the movement as being an attempt to organize all of the Negroes to return to Africa. They all advised that they had evidenced no interest in the movement and that they had not given FERGERSEN permission to use their names as members. All were questioned concerning any pro-Japanese statements that might have been made by Subject FERGERSEN but they advised they had never heard him make any such statements:

~~ED~~ TATUM
A. B. SMITH
~~DEACON~~ HUNTER
ISAAC ALEXANDER
PAT MURPHY & WIFE
WILLIE KEMP

The following persons, whose names appeared in the roll book as members, were contacted and each denied having been contacted for the purpose of becoming members and also denied being members. All admitted, however, that they had heard of the organization second-hand and that they knew FERGERSEN to be the organizer in Palatka:

S. B. BATTLES
THOMAS MAXWELL
IVIE FULLOOD
ALONZO THOMAS
BEN DOUGLAS
MOTHER SMITH
WILLIE THOMAS
AGNES ALEXANDER
BILL KIRKLAND

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JAMES P. DONOVAN and JOSEPH A. LEHMAN, Jr.: MAJOR BROWN, Hicksville, Palatka, Florida was interviewed on November 21, 1942 at which time he furnished the following statement:

"Palatka, Florida
November 21, 1942

I, MAJOR BROWN, of Hicksville, Palatka, Florida, do make this statement to Special Agents JOSEPH A. LEHMAN, Jr. and JAMES P. DONOVAN, knowing them to be Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have been told that I do not have to make any statement and that any statement made by me may be used against me. I say this of my own free will and nobody has promised me anything or made any threats to get me to make this statement:

I heard WILLIAM A. FERGERSEN speak at the Mount Carmel Church in Toddsville at two different times. The first time that he spoke there was in the same week that he received a letter from M. M. L. GORDON from Chicago. I have read the date on the letter which he read that day and that date is July 16, 1940. I am certain that this letter, which was read to me by Special Agent JAMES P. DONOVAN, is the letter which I heard him read at the Church. After FERGERSEN had read the letter he talked to the people there and I remember that he said that this was not the colored people's war, because we had no rights to fight for; he said we would be forced to fight because we were in this country. He read or talked about the Ethiopian Peace Movement, and said that the colored people should all stick together if we wanted to get back to our native home Africa. He mentioned President ROOSEVELT and Senator BILBO and said that the United States Government was going to provide a boat to take the negroes back to Liberia, Africa, if it did what the Peace Movement was asking for.

The next time that I heard WILLIAM A. FERGERSEN speak was in the last part of 1941 or in the early part of 1942. He spoke at the church in Toddsville and told the people there that this was a white man's war, because the colored people had no rights to fight for. He said this time that since we were in this country we had to do what the higher authorities said, so we would be forced to fight. He also said that the white people were afraid because they were losing the war. He also said that it didn't make any difference who won this war because after it was all over every nation would return back to its old home; I don't know whether this statement was read by FERGERSEN from a letter or whether he just said it, but I know that I heard him say it. I have been read a letter by Special Agent DONOVAN and have read the date on the copy of that letter which date is

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January 21, 1941. I know that this letter came from the same person who wrote the other letters to WILLIAM A. FERGERSEN, and that this is the letter that he read at the meeting, the last time he spoke at the Mount Carmel Church.

I did not like the Ethiopian Peace Movement, and I had nothing to do with it; I was never a member of the Movement and the only thing I know about it is what I was told by FERGERSEN in his speeches at the Church and in one talk I had with him at his home.

This statement has been read to me by Special Agent DONOVAN and I understand it and everything it says is true.

/s/ MAJOR BROWN

Witnesses:

JAMES P. DONOVAN, Special Agent F. B. I.
JOSEPH A. LEHMAN, Jr., Special Agent F. B. I."

WILLIE PATERSON, of Baileysville, Palatka, Florida was interviewed at this same time, at which time the following signed statement was obtained:

"Palatka, Florida
November 21, 1942

I, WILLIE PATERSON, of Baileysville, Palatka, Florida do make this statement to WILLIAM GODFREY and JAMES P. DONOVAN, knowing them to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will. I have been told that I do not have to make any statement and that any thing I say can be used against me. I have not been threatened and nobody has promised me anything to get me to make a statement.

In the early part of 1942 I heard WILLIAM A. FERGERSEN speak at the Mount Carmel Colored Church in Baileysville. At that time he had a letter from a Mrs. GORDON read by a young colored girl who was visiting the Church. I don't remember what the letter said but I do know that FERGERSEN in his conversation told the Congregation that this was a white man's war, that the colored people had nothing to fight for and that if the Japanese people won the war, the colored people would be free to go back to Africa.

In 1940 I heard FERGERSEN talking to the colored people, trying to get them to go back to Africa. In 1939 or 1940 he was selling the colored people buttons, for ten cents apiece.

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I never bought a button, and I do not know anything about the Ethiopian Peace Movement.

This statement has been read to me by Special Agent DONOVAN and it is true.

/s/ WILLIE PATTERSON

Witnesses:

WILLIAM A. GODFREY, Special Agent, F. B.I.
JAMES P. DONOVAN, Special Agent, F. B. I. "

CHOICE JONES, of East Palatka, Florida was interviewed at which time he supplied the following signed statement:

"Palatka, Florida
November 23, 1942

I, CHOICE JONES, of East Palatka, Florida, do make this statement to JOSEPH A. LEHMAN, Jr. and JAMES P. DONOVAN, knowing them to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have been told that I do not have to make any statement and that any thing I say may be used against me. No one has threatened me nor has anyone promised me anything to get me to make this statement.

I am the Secretary of the Woman's Home Mission of the Mount Carmel Church of Toddsville, Florida. On some Sunday evening within the past five months, WILLIAM A. FERGERSEN came to our church and asked that someone read some letters to the congregation. The Reverend E. B. DUNCAN asked me to read these letters to the Congregation for Mr. FERGERSEN. I read two letters to the Congregation and after I had finished reading them FERGERSEN got up and tried to explain them to the people who were there. He asked the people to cooperate with him in the back to Africa movement, and tried to sell them some membership cards and buttons. No one that I know of bought any of these cards or buttons.

I have been shown a letter dated June 16, 1942 by Special Agents LEHMAN and DONOVAN. That letter is addressed to WILLIAM A. FERGERSEN, at Route 1, Box 217, Palatka, Florida, is signed by M. M. L. GORDON and is one of the letters which I read on that Sunday. I have also been shown a letter dated January 21, 1941. This letter that I have seen is a copy in picture form. That letter was addressed to WILLIAM A. FERGERSEN, Route 1,

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Box 151, Palatka, Florida, and is signed by M. M. L. GORDON in the letter which I read although the name does not appear on the copy which I have seen. I know that the first paragraph was read by me to the people in the Church, and I believe that this is the other letter which I read although I cannot remember the rest of the letter.

After I finished reading the letters FERGENSEN told the people that if they wanted more information they could come to his home and he would tell them about it.

After this meeting I heard no more about this movement. I never joined the movement and I made no effort to get members. The only reason that I read the letters was because I read letters in the Church when the Reverend DUNCAN asks me to do so.

I have read the above statement and it is true.

/s/ CHOICE JONES

Witnesses:

JOSEPH A. LEHMAN, Jr., Special Agent, F. B. I.
JAMES P. DONOVAN, Special Agent, F. B. I. "

ASIA EARL, of 923 Oak Street, Palatka, Florida, was interviewed at which time he supplied the following signed statement:

"Palatka, Florida
November 21, 1942

I, ASIA EARL, of 923 Oak Street, Palatka, Florida, do make this statement to JOSEPH A. LEHMAN, Jr. knowing him to be a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have been told that I do not have to make any statement and that anything I say can be used against me. I make this statement of my own free will, and no threats or promises have been made to get me to make this statement: I remember talking to WILLIAM A. FERGENSEN about 1936 about the Ethiopian Peace Movement. He told me that the colored people were working to get back to Africa. It all sounded like a dream to me but I told him he could put my name down as a member, but I don't remember giving him any money. I never did get a membership card, but I understand that I was a member of the movement. I have not talked to FERGENSEN or anybody else about this movement since that time.

I have read the above statement and it is true.

/s/ ASIA EARL

Witnesses:

JOSEPH A. LEHMAN, Jr., Special Agent, F. B. I.
JAMES P. DONOVAN, Special Agent, F. B. I. "

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TOM JONES, of Pistol Alley, Palatka, Florida, was interviewed at which time he gave the following signed statement:

"Palatka, Florida
November 23, 1942

I, TOM JONES, of Pistol Alley, Palatka, Florida, do make this statement to JOSEPH A. LEHMAN, Jr., and JAMES P. DONOVAN, Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will. I have been told that I do not have to make any statement and that anything I say can be used against me.

I am an Elder of the Mount Carmel Church of Toddsville and was present on a Sunday night this summer when my daughter-in-law CHOICE JONES read two letters which were given to her by WILLIAM A. FERGERSSEN.

I have been read a letter by Special Agent DONOVAN which is a copy of one dated January 21, 1941 addressed to WILLIAM A. FERGERSSEN, Route 1, Box 151, Palatka, Florida. This is one of the letters which was read by my daughter-in-law in the Mount Carmel Church during the summer of 1942.

After the letters were read FERGERSSEN tried to explain what they were about the best he could. He asked the people who were there to cooperate in the back to Africa movement. He also said that President ROOSEVELT and Senator BILBO were supporting the movement.

This statement of one page has been read to me and it is true.

/s/ TOM JONES

Witnesses:

JAMES P. DONOVAN, Special Agent, F. B. I.
JOSEPH A. LEHMAN, Jr., Special Agent, F. B. I. "

The writer and Special Agent JAMES P. DONOVAN interviewed WILLIAM A. FERGERSON, of Hicksville, Palatka, Florida at which time the following additional signed statement was obtained:

"Palatka, Florida
November 21, 1942

I, WILLIAM ASHLEY FERGERSON, make the following statement to WILLIAM A. GODFREY, who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent

of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have been told that I need not make a statement but I am making this statement of my own free will as I wish to tell the Federal Bureau of Investigation all that I know about M. M. L. GORDON and the Peace Movement of Ethiopia. No promises or threats were made to me when I was asked to give this statement and I realize that this statement may be used against me in court.

About the first part of 1936 I read an article in the Pittsburgh Courier, a negro newspaper, this article told about a plan to return the negro people to Africa and in the article the name of M. M. L. GORDON was mentioned. I was interested in the article and wrote to M. M. L. GORDON and she wrote back to me and told me about the Peace Movement of Ethiopia and told me to carry on the work and try to get members for the Peace Movement.

About three months after I first wrote to M. M. L. GORDON she wrote to me and told me that membership cards would be sent to members for ten cents and that membership pins would cost five cents. I bought a pin and membership card and still have them. I also ordered cards and pins for about six other members and sent the money for them to M. M. L. GORDON and when the pins and cards arrived I gave them to the members, I cannot now remember the names of the members who ordered cards and pins. It was not necessary to have a card or pin to be a member of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia as membership was free and I simply sent in the names of people who wanted to be members to M. M. L. GORDON, 4451 S. State Street, Chicago and that was all they had to do to join, just give me their names.

I talked to various church groups about Palatka, Florida trying to get members, I also talked to people at their homes and all of the names I got of people that wanted to be members I put in the Role Book and I also sent their names to M. M. L. GORDON. Only a few of the members ever gave me money for pins and cards and I think that I have sent about one dollar to M. M. L. GORDON.

During the summer of 1942 I sent a telegram to M. M. L. GORDON at the request of M. M. L. GORDON who wrote a letter to me and asked me to send such a telegram which she would send to the President of the United States, M. M. L. GORDON told me just what to say and I sent the telegram as she requested in her letter to me dated July 20, 1942. The telegram read as follows: 'We the members of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia from the state of Florida sincerely co-operate with all the rest of the states in the union that request the President of the United States to please set free all black slaves of America and repatriate them to their fatherland, Africa.'

In June I received a letter from M. M. L. GORDON dated June 23, 1942 in which she sent me my credentials to represent and establish locals of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia wherever I might deem it advisable. The credentials were signed by M. M. L. GORDON, President; and ROSIE L. GEARRING and were dated February 13, 1942 and marked to be null and void after February 14, 1943.

I also sent about one letter a month to M. M. L. GORDON and told her of any new members I had obtained and of the work I was trying to do and she sent me about one letter a month telling me of the work of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia and advising me how to carry on the work of the Movement.

Most of the letters which I have received from M. M. L. GORDON I have lost or destroyed but I have 13 letters which I have given to Special Agent WILLIAM A. GODFREY of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have also given Special Agent GODFREY my membership pin and my membership card which I received from M. M. L. GORDON, this card was received by me about 1936.

A letter dated January 21, 1941 from M. M. L. GORDON was received by me but I have lost it or destroyed it, however I have looked at a photo of this letter and I know that it is the same as I received from M. M. L. GORDON, the photo is a picture of the letter which I received and the writing in the photo was the same as the letter which I received. The picture of the letter was shown to me by Special Agent WILLIAM A. GODFREY of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The letters which I received from M. M. L. GORDON and which I have turned over to Special Agent WILLIAM A. GODFREY are dated as follows: December 16, 1939; March 2, 1940; March 30, 1940; July 16, 1940; October 1, 1940; June 16, 1942; July 3, 1942; July 20, 1942; June 23, 1942; July 29, 1942; August 7, 1942; August 28, 1942; November 7, 1942.

M. M. L. GORDON is the leader of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia and she advised me what to do in getting the Peace Movement going in Florida. The Role Book which contains all of the names of members of the Peace Movement which I enlisted in Florida has been given by ^{me} to Special Agent WILLIAM A. GODFREY and all of the names in the Role Book have been sent into M. M. L. GORDON by me and I sent the names of members into M. M. L. GORDON because she told me that all names of members must be sent to her.

I wrote to M. M. L. GORDON and asked her what I would do if I held a meeting and the police came, M. M. L. GORDON wrote back to me

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and said in her letter that the President of the United States had approved the Peace Movement of Ethiopia and that it was a pure movement and that if the police came to any meetings I was to show them this letter from her.

About two or three years ago M. M. L. GORDON asked me to attend a convention of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia to be held at Washington, D. C. but I could not go as I did not have the money. I was to go to the convention and represent Florida.

All information I have concerning the Peace Movement of Ethiopia I have received from M. M. L. GORDON and I sent all of my reports to her in Chicago.

I have read the above statement of three pages and it is true.

/s/ WILLIAM A. FERGERSON

Witnesses:

WILLIAM GODFREY, Special Agent, F. B. I.
JAMES P. DONOVAN, Special Agent, F. B. I. "

The original of this signed statement set out above is being forwarded to the Chicago Field Division with copies of this report.

The following is a description of J. W. HINES, reported by WILLIAM A. FERGERSON to be secretary of subject organization in Palatka, Florida: Age, 45; Height, 5'11"; Weight, 140 lbs.; Complexion, dark brown; Hair, black; Mustache, black and full.

WILLIE MACK, of 1013 Carr Street, Palatka, Florida, was interviewed by the writer and JAMES P. DONOVAN, at which time the following signed statement was obtained:

"Palatka, Florida
Nov. 24th, 1942

I, WILLIAM MACK of 1013 Carr Street, Palatka, Florida do hereby make the following statement of my own free will to WILLIAM A. GODFREY and JOSEPH A. LEHMAN, Jr. knowing them to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have been told that I do not have to make this statement and that no threats or promises were made to be to obtain the same.

About three or four years ago WILLIAM A. FERGESON of Palatka came to me and explained that he was starting a movement, here in town, for the betterment of the colored people, it was, so he explained to get the colored people to return to Africa, and was supported by Senator BILBO. I became interested and asked him to tell me more. he said that he would give me some books to read on the subject but as yet I have never gotten them. I gave him my name as well as the names of my wife LIZZIE MACK, and my children, ROBERT, NETTIE, INEZ, CEPHAS, HENRATTIA and IVIE and told him he could put us down as members of the movement. I did not pay him any money and did not receive any membership card or buttons.

I have talked to FERGESON since this time about the movement but I do not remember what was said other than he told me he had received some letters and that they reported that the movement was gaining. He was going to let me read these letters but as yet I have not seen them.

At the time I gave him my name for membership he told me that he had been authorized to get all the names of people who were interested and by giving him their names they became members even though they did not buy membership cards or buttons.

I have read the above statement consisting of one and a half pages and find it to be true and correct and to show that it is I am signing my name.

/s/ WILLIAM MACK

Witnesses:

WILLIAM A. GODFREY, Special Agent, F. B. I.
JOSEPH A. LEHMAN, Jr., Special Agent, F. B. I. "

Special Agent JOSEPH A. LEHMAN, Jr. and the writer interviewed LIZZIE FERGERSON, wife of WILLIAM A. FERGESON, Palatka, Florida and obtained the following statement which is set out:

"Palatka, Florida
Nov. 24th, 1942

I, LIZZIE FERGERSON of Palatka, Florida make the following statement to WILLIAM A. GODFREY and JOSEPH A. LEHMAN, Jr. who have made themselves known to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have been advised by Agent GODFREY that I do not have to make a statement and that any statement made by me can be used against me

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in court but I desire to make this statement of my own freewill. No threats or promises were made to me and I am making this statement so that all I know about it will be known to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

A few years ago my husband started writing to M. M. L. GORDON in Chicago, Ill. and after he received a letter from M. M. L. GORDON he started to get members for the Peace Movement of Ethiopia. I became a member of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia and my husband sent my name to M. M. L. GORDON.

I cannot read nor write but my husband read to me many letters from M. M. L. GORDON and told me what they were about and also what the Peace Movement of Ethiopia was trying to do. The following is the purpose of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia as told to me by my husband and as told by the letters which he read to me and which letters were received by him from M. M. L. GORDON. The Peace Movement was to get all the colored people in the United States to go back to Africa and the present war that we are now fighting would end up with the white people committing suicide, therefore watch the war in the east, and that after the war was over the colored people would go to Africa. Also in another letter from M. M. L. GORDON he read to me, he said that it didn't matter who won the war as after it was all over all people would go back to their nation and that the black folks would go to Africa. In another letter from M. M. L. GORDON, which my husband read to me, he said that the white people in this country were afraid because they were losing the war and that because of that it would take some time to get the colored people back to Africa.

I cannot read nor write and this statement has been read to me by Special Agent LEHMAN and it is true and correct and to show this I am placing my mark on this statement which consists of two and a quarter pages.

LIZZIE FERGERSON

Her
X
Mark

Witnesses:

JOSEPH A. LEHMAN, Jr., Special Agent, F. B. I.
WILLIAM A. GODFREY, Special Agent, F. B. I. "

The aforementioned signed statements, with the exception of the two signed statements of subject WILLIAM A. FERGERSON, are being retained in the files of the Miami Field Division.

The following is a description of WILLIAM A. FERGERSON:

Age	58
Born	Whitehall, South Carolina
	August 25, 1886
Height	5'11"
Weight	145 lbs.
Eyes	Dark brown
Complexion	Dark brown
Hair	Black, turning gray
Mustache	Full and black
Scars	Small straight scar at edge of left eye
Teeth	Lower set gone
Peculiarities	Cheek bones high, depression in front of temples
Relatives	Wife, ELIZABETH FERGERSON, Palatka
	Registered for draft in Palatka in April 1942 with Selective Service Board No. 1

Confidential Informant T-2 advised the writer that Mrs. G. D. WEBB, of 2790 St. Johns Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida, had stated that her cook's negro preacher had only recently warned the people in his congregation not to listen to representatives of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia, and, further, the cook of Mrs. WEBB has information concerning the existence of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia in Jacksonville, Florida.

Confidential Informant T-3 advised that a telegram was sent by WILLIAM A. FERGERSON to M. M. L. GORDON, Chicago, on July 20, 1942 and that said telegram was presently in possession of Confidential Informant T-3. It is to be noted that this telegram sent on July 20, 1942 by WILLIAM A. FERGERSON is the telegram set out in his statement dated November 21, 1942. This telegram may be subpoenaed in the event the original is desired.

The writer has marked for identification the following items obtained from WILLIAM A. FERGERSON by placing his initials thereon: 13 letters received by WILLIAM A. FERGERSON from M. M. L. GORDON; membership card, pin, and roll book of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia; a copy of the Congressional Record entitled, "Voluntary Resettlement of American Negroes in Africa", all of which were furnished to the writer by WILLIAM A. FERGERSON and all of which are being forwarded to the Chicago Field Division.

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ENCLOSURES TO CHICAGO:

13 letters received by WILLIAM A. FERGERSON
from M. M. L. GORDON, Chicago, Illinois

Membership card, pin, and roll book of the
Peace Movement of Ethiopia, Florida Chapter.

Copy of a part of the Congressional Record
entitled, "Voluntary Resettlement of American
Negroes in Africa".

Two signed statements of WILLIAM A. FERGERSON

- P E N D I N G -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE MIAMI FIELD DIVISION

At Palatka, Florida

Will re-contact PAULINE HANKINS to ascertain if she has located membership cards of subject organization which she stated were formerly in her possession and also to ascertain if she has any additional information concerning subject organization.

Will re-contact WILLIE KENT to ascertain whether he has obtained any further information concerning subject organization. It will be noted that KENT advised that he would attempt to obtain all possible information concerning subject organization.

At Jacksonville, Florida

Will attempt to locate J. W. HINES, reported by WILLIAM A. FERGERSON to be secretary of subject organization in Palatka, Florida and now located in Jacksonville, Florida, address unknown.

Will re-interview Mrs. G. D. WEBB, 2790 St. Johns Avenue for any information concerning subject organization in Jacksonville, Florida, it being noted that Mrs. WEBB's cook is reported to have information concerning the Peace Movement of Ethiopia.

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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

T-1:

T-2:

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

T-3:

TITLE: PEACE MOVEMENT OF ETHIOPIA; FLORIDA CHAPTER; WILLIAM
ASHLEY FERGERSON, was; INTERNAL SECURITY

S. A. WILLIAM AYERS GODFREY

DATE: 12/3/42

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DATE 7-2-96 BY SP4-BJA/TM
857 PM CWT

FBI CHICAGO

DIRECTOR

RAW. PEACE MOVEMENT TO ~~ETHIOPIA~~ ETHIOPIA AKA ETHIOPIAN PEACE MOVE-
MENT, MADAM MITTIE MAUD LENA GORDON, WA ETAL - INTERNAL SECURITY J.,
SEDITION. UNITED STATES ATTORNEY ADVISES LABORATORY TECHNICIAN WHO
EXAMINED SPECIMENS Q FOUR THROUGH Q TWELVE IN INSTANT CASE AS CONTAINED
IN LABORATORY REPORT NOVEMBER FIFTH, NINETEEN FORTYTWO AND TECHNICIAN WHO
~~XXXX~~ EXAMINED ~~SCXX~~ SPECIMENS Q THIRTEEN THROUGH Q SEVENTEEN AS CON-
TAINED IN ~~LAORXX~~ LABORATORY REPORT NOVEMBER TWENTYFOURTH, NINETEEN
FORTYTWO WILL BE A NECESSARY WITNESS IN INSTANT CASE. TRIAL SET FOR TEN
AM DECEMBER EIGHTH, NINETEEN FORTYTWO IN OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING. BU-
REAU REQUESTED TO FURNISH NAMES OF WITNESSES. LABORATORY RE-
QUESTED TO EXPDITE EXAMINATION OF SPECIMENS TRANSMITTED BY MY LETER
NOVEMBER TWENTYTHIRD, NINETEEN FORTYTWO. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO HAVE
ALL ORIGINAL SPECIMENS AVAILABLE AT THE TRIAL.

A AND H PLS
9-55-PM

FBI WASH DC MFT

EL M

Called Laboratory

M

By

JOHNSON

100-124410-53

Handled
12-2-42
SXXA

5
J. Edgar Hoover
cc - [unclear]

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
1300 Biscayne Building
Miami, Florida
December 3, 1942

98
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

①
Re: PEACE MOVEMENT TO ETHIOPIA aka
Ethiopian Peace Movement
MITTIE MAUD LENA GORDON with alias
et al; INTERNAL SECURITY - J
SEDITION

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to report of Special Agent RICHARD W. AXTELL, Chicago, Illinois, dated September 16, 1942, and the letter from the Chicago Field Division to the Bureau dated October 29, 1942, a copy of which letter was forwarded to the Miami Field Division.

The leads set out in reference letter October 29, 1942 have been covered by investigation conducted in the included report of Special Agent WILLIAM A. GODFREY, at Miami, Florida, dated December 3, 1942, and entitled PEACE MOVEMENT OF ETHIOPIA; FLORIDA CHAPTER; WILLIAM ASHLEY FERGERTON, with aliases; INTERNAL SECURITY - J; SEDITION. This investigation of the Florida Chapter is presently pending. However, all leads set up by the Chicago Field Division have been covered by the investigation in the enclosed report. The above captioned case is being considered as referred upon completion to the office of origin, Chicago, Illinois.

Subsequent copies of the results of the investigation of the Miami Field Division in the case entitled, PEACE MOVEMENT OF ETHIOPIA; FLORIDA CHAPTER; WILLIAM A. FERGERTON, will be furnished to the Chicago Field Division.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-96 BY SP4-BJA/JM

Very truly yours,

A. P. Kitchen

A. P. KITCHIN
Special Agent in Charge

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Encl.
2CC: Chicago
WAGo:MCC
100-6085

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